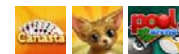




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How the people of Flint, Mich., ended up with contaminated drinking water

By [Caitlin Dickson](#)
January 19, 2016 11:36 PM
Yahoo News



Gov. Rick Snyder apologized to the residents of Flint, Mich., [Tuesday evening](#) for the failure in state, local and federal leadership resulting in a water contamination crisis that has consumed the city for nearly two years.

"To you, the people of Flint, I say tonight as I have before, I am sorry and I will fix it," Snyder said in his annual State of the State address, calling on state lawmakers to approve \$28 million in funds to help replace water faucets in city schools and daycare centers, do diagnostic tests and treat children who may have been exposed to lead and other hazardous chemicals, and study the city's piping system.

Related Stories

1. [Michigan governor: State to help to Flint in water crisis](#) Associated Press

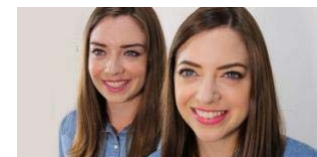
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the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to the Flint River in April 2014. But it wasn't until October 2015 — after reports revealed an increase in lead-in-blood levels among Flint residents and children in particular — that Snyder finally ordered Flint to stop using the river water and return to Detroit's supply.

4. [Michigan governor's address to focus on Flint water crisis](#) Reuters

5. [The Latest: Flint water protest planned at governor's speech](#) Associated Press

AP Interactive: The Flint Water Crisis

Over the past few weeks, the local crisis has continued to snowball into a national issue, with Snyder declaring a state of emergency and deploying the Michigan National Guard to distribute water bottles and filters, as federal officials launched an investigation. Over the weekend President Obama signed an emergency declaration and ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate in bringing federal aid to Flint.

Flint — and Snyder — have even become talking points on the presidential campaign trail. During Sunday's Democratic debate, [Hillary Clinton](#) admonished Snyder, accusing him of deliberately ignoring the basic needs of an already disadvantaged community.

"We've had a city in the United States of America where the population, which is poor in many ways and majority African-American, has been drinking and bathing in lead-contaminated water. And the governor of that state acted as though he didn't really care," Clinton said. "He had a request for help that he had basically stonewalled. I'll tell you what — if the kids in a rich suburb of Detroit had been drinking contaminated water and being bathed in it, there would've been action."

Democratic candidate [Bernie Sanders](#) also commented on the Flint water crisis, saying Snyder should resign.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver — who met with President Obama Tuesday — joined Hillary for America's national political director on a phone call with reporters earlier in the day to discuss Clinton's response to the water crisis and Flint's needs going forward.

"People are angry, they're scared, they're confused, they need support. We need more than just water and filters coming in," Weaver said. "What are we going to do for these kids and families that have been impacted?"

Weaver said she was grateful to Clinton for speaking out about Flint during Sunday's debate, and especially for questioning how this situation would have played out in a city with different demographics than [Flint](#), a predominantly black community with more than 40 percent of its population living below the poverty line.

"This is also a class issue," Weaver said. "Water is a basic right; it's a social issue."

As more than 1,000 people protested outside the state Capitol, Snyder promised that on Wednesday he would release all his emails regarding Flint from 2014 and 2015 — apparently in an effort to answer growing questions about what exactly he knew about the water situation and when.

Below is a timeline of what we know so far.

April 16, 2013: State-appointed emergency manager Ed Kurtz [signs an agreement](#) passed by the Flint City Council to join the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA), a new pipeline project that would supply Flint with tap water from Lake Huron.

April 2014: Flint moves water supply from Detroit to Flint River.

Flint previously purchased its drinking water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. And despite the fact that the KWA pipeline would not be complete for about three more years, in April 2014 Flint severs ties with the DWSD and begins supplying its residents with water from the Flint River. Flint residents soon begin to complain about cost and quality of water.



The top of a water tower at the Flint Water Plant is seen in Flint, Michigan January 13, 2016. (Rebecca Cook/R...

June 12, 2014: Flint water treatment plant [announces plan](#) to add more lime to the river water in response to customer complaints. Residents begin complaining about the color, odor and taste of their costly tap water not long after the city switches its drinking water supply to the Flint River.

"It stinks. It's nasty, and we shouldn't even be drinking it," Flint resident Rev. Barbara Bettis says at a City Council meeting.

Then-Mayor Dayne Walling rebuffs residents' concerns about the river water, insisting, "It's a quality, safe product. I think people are wasting their precious money buying bottled water."

August-September 2014: Flint issues [three separate water-boil advisories](#) to different parts of the city within 22 days after water samples repeatedly test positive for total coliform bacteria.

Oct. 13, 2014: [General Motors](#) announces it will stop using river water at its Flint engine plant because of concerns about potential corrosion caused by the water's high chloride levels.

Feb. 3 2015: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announces [\\$2 million in state funding](#) to help improve Flint's water system.

Feb. 17, 2015: Mayor Dayne Walling appoints 40 city officials, business owners and community organizers to a newly formed [water advisory committee](#).

March 2015: Flint dedicates [\\$2.24 million](#) to improve water supply as [Flint officials](#) insist water quality has improved and

meets safety standards.

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Sept. 29, 2015: Gov. Rick Snyder acknowledges for the first time that [Flint's water has a lead problem](#).



Flint resident Lorraine Jones pours canned water into a pot in preparation for boiling to cook on Tuesday, Jan. ...

Oct. 2, 2015: Snyder says [the state will spend \\$1 million](#) on water filters and testing of water in Flint public schools.

Oct. 8, 2015: [Snyder says](#) Flint should go back to getting its water from Detroit.

Oct. 16, 2015: State legislature approves [\\$9.3 million for Flint](#): \$6 million of it is meant to help get Flint back on the Detroit water supply until KWA is ready, and the rest to fund water filters, testing and inspections.

Nov. 3, 2015: Mayor Dayne Walling [loses reelection](#) amid the water scandal. New Mayor Karen Weaver is elected.

Nov. 13, 2015: A [class-action lawsuit](#) accuses 14 officials (including Gov. Snyder and former Mayor Walling) of supplying Flint residents with "dangerous, unsafe, and ... inadequately treated" water as a means of saving money.

"For more than 18 months, state and local government officials ignored irrefutable evidence that the water pumped from the Flint River exposed [users] to extreme toxicity," reads part of the suit.

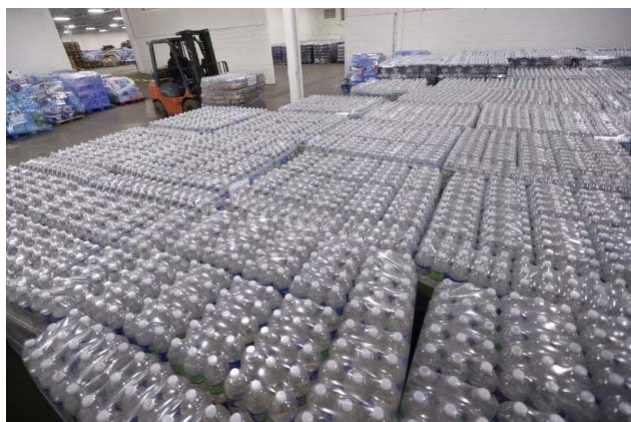
Nov. 16, 2015: The ACLU of Michigan, the National Resource Defense Council, Concerned Pastors for Social Action and Flint resident Melissa Mays file [notice of intent to sue](#) the city and state over lead in the drinking water.

Dec. 29, 2015: Dan Wyant resigns as director of state Department of Environmental Quality and [issues an apology](#) to Flint residents.

Jan. 5, 2016: Federal officials [announce investigation](#) of the Flint water crisis.

[The same day](#), Gov. Snyder declares a state of emergency.

Jan. 12, 2016: [Michigan National Guard](#) is deployed to Flint to distribute filters and water bottles. Snyder asks for federal assistance.



A forklift driver moves a pallet of water in a warehouse for residents of Flint, Michigan. (Carlos Osorio/AP P ...

Jan. 13, 2016: Michigan health officials report [jump in cases of Legionnaires' disease](#) in Genesee County, which includes Flint, over past two years.

Jan. 16, 2016: [President Obama signs emergency declaration](#), orders FEMA and DHS to coordinate on federal aid for Flint.

Jan. 17, 2016: During the [Democratic presidential debate](#), Hillary Clinton says, "I spent a lot of time last week being outraged by what's happening in Flint, Michigan, and I think every single American should be outraged."

Bernie Sanders also comments on the Flint water crisis, saying Snyder should resign.

Jan. 18, 2016: [More National Guard troops](#) are sent to Flint.

That same day, Snyder responds to Clinton's comments from the debate, accusing her of politicizing the crisis. "We're going to keep working on putting solutions in place," [Snyder told the Detroit News](#) after speaking at an event in Flint for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. "And what I would say is politicizing the issue doesn't help matters. Let's focus in on the solution and how to deal with the damage that was done and help the citizens of Flint and make Flint a stronger community."

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.; U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich.; and Congressman Dan Kildee, D-Mich. [urge Snyder](#) to commit state resources to reimburse Flint residents for their water bills, repair the damaged water system and create a Future Fund for kids exposed to lead poisoning from water.

Jan. 19, 2016: [Two new class-action lawsuits](#) are filed against Gov. Rick Snyder, former Flint Emergency Managers Darnell Earley and Jerry Ambrose, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Genesee County and other government officials.

The latest two, one filed in Genesee County Circuit Court and the other in the Court of Claims, come in addition to the suit already filed in federal court.

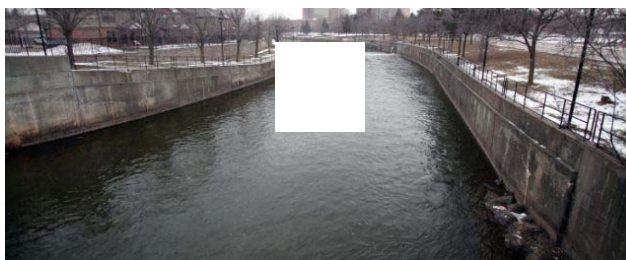
That evening Snyder apologizes to the people of Flint and promises to fix the damage caused by water contamination.

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The Body of Little Noah Chamberlin, 2, Found in Tennessee Clearing After Desperate Search

Little Noah Chamberlin disappeared one week ago while walking with his grandmother. His body was found Thursday.

Inside Edition



Draft constitution for army-run Thailand 'strong medicine'

By Amy Sawitta Lefevre and Panarat Thepgumpanat BANGKOK (Reuters) - A draft constitution for army-run Thailand to be unveiled this month will be "strong medicine", the constitution panel head said on Wednesday, adding that there was no guarantee it would pass a referendum, meaning a further...

Reuters



'India's cleanest village' clings on to its serenity

In the tiny hamlet of Mawlynnong in India's far north east, plastic is banned and spotless paths are lined with flowers -- but its reputation as Asia's cleanest village has proved a mixed blessing. Home to the Khasi tribal people, Mawlynnong is famous for being a rare matrilineal society, where...

AFP



Oil rebounds from 12-year low as equities rally, shorts cover

Oil prices rebounded over \$1 a barrel from 12-year lows on Thursday, their biggest daily gain this year, as rallying financial markets gave some bearish traders reason to take profits on record short positions. U.S. crude vaulted back toward \$30 per barrel as hopes for easier monetary policy from...

Reuters



Disappearance of Bolivia's No. 2 lake a harbinger

UNTAVI, Bolivia (AP) — Overturned fishing skiffs lie abandoned on the shores of what was Bolivia's second-largest lake. Beetles dine on bird carcasses and gulls fight for scraps under a glaring sun in what marshes remain.

Associated Press

Donald Trump Thought Sarah Palin's Endorsement Speech Was a Bit Too Long

"I thought it would be disrespectful to her if I left the stage."

Mic



Woman robbed at knife-point near Temple University's campus

Police are investigating a knife-point robbery near Temple University's campus in North Philadelphia.

KABC - Los Angeles



Losses in Syria may force some IS leaders to move to Libya: EU official

Islamic State military losses in Syria and Iraq may prompt some of its leaders to relocate to Libya where they will face less pressure, the EU's counter-terrorism coordinator said Thursday. In an interview with AFP, Gilles de Kerchove also warned that the raids by the US-led coalition and Russian...

AFP

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Southwestern Energy to cut 1,100 jobs amid oil slump

NEW YORK (AP) — Southwestern Energy said it will cut 1,100 jobs, or about 44 percent of its workforce, as the price of crude wallows at levels not seen in more than a decade.

[Associated Press](#)

Oregon governor calls on feds to act against armed group

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's governor said she's frustrated with the way federal authorities are handling an armed group's continued occupation of a national wildlife refuge and it's time to end it.

[Associated Press](#)

The party's really over: Netflix begins blocking VPN users

When Netflix said recently that it would begin to block VPN users, many people shrugged it off thinking the move was all talk. Well, we have some bad news for you this morning: It wasn't all talk. Reports are now emerging that Netflix has begun to actively block VPN users in at least one country...

[BGR News](#)

South Valley student arrested for bomb threat

A 16-year-old student is in custody accused of making a bomb threat in the South Valley. Visalia police were alerted to threat on social media.

[KABC - Los Angeles](#)

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Georgia senator says he will oppose federal judge nominee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. David Perdue of Georgia said Thursday he won't support President Barack Obama's nominee for a federal judgeship in Georgia, essentially scuttling the choice.

[Associated Press](#)

Couple's Future Grows Murkier After Man Has Second Thoughts

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Jimmy," and I have been together for two years. After about four months, out of necessity we moved in together and it was great. Not long afterward I got a job two hours away. Since I moved, we get to see each other only every two or three weeks. The separation has been...

[Dear Abby](#)

White House reacts to Palin: 'Domestic violence is not a joke'

Palin's son was arrested on suspicion of assaulting a woman and carrying a gun while intoxicated, police in the family's Alaska hometown said on Tuesday. In a speech she made Wednesday to support leading Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Palin linked her son's charges to his...

[Reuters](#)

Millions in 'Daesh cash' destroyed in US strikes

Daesh -- a widely used Arabic abbreviation for the IS group -- have been hoarding millions of dollars in local currency and greenbacks across Iraq and Syria, much of it derived from illicit oil sales. Colonel Steve Warren, a Baghdad-based spokesman for the US-led coalition that has been fighting...

[AFP](#)

Davos elite alarmed at prospect of nominee Trump

By Carmel Crimmins and Martinne Geller DAVOS, Switzerland (Reuters) - "Unbelievable", "embarrassing" even "dangerous" are some of the words the financial elite gathered at the World Economic Forum conference in the Swiss resort of Davos have been using to describe U.S. Republican presidential...

[Reuters](#)

Condemned serial killer dies in hospital, not death chamber

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Serial killer Derrick Todd Lee was sentenced to be executed years ago, but instead he died Thursday in a Louisiana hospital.

[Associated Press](#)

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